

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO TIMBER
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND
THE INTERMOUNTAIN FORESTRY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) and Intermountain Forestry for their hard work, dedication and service to the people of Colorado. Gary and Cathy Jones of CTIA, as well as Diane Hoppe and Tom Troxell with Intermountain Forestry have been good advocates for common sense and good policy within the Forest Service. During the August recess, Gary and Cathy Jones of CTIA organized and led a tour of the Routt Blowdown near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The tour was flawlessly done and informative. Representatives from the local counties, the state legislature, Club 20, the Forest Service and some of Colorado's congressional offices were present.

Colorado has 3,148,182 acres of wilderness. Of the 2,841,000 acres suitable for harvest, only 12,354 acres were harvested in 1996. There is a total of 13,867,569 acres of national forest lands in Colorado (excluding the National Grasslands). Forest timber sale targets have decreased roughly 50% since 1990 (excluding some of this year's salvage sales). Meanwhile, forest growth has outpaced harvest on suitable lands by roughly 400%. Logging is responsible for only 2% of the tree mortality in Colorado. Disease and insects are the most well-known causes of tree mortality. Due to political pressure, the Forest Service will build only 8 miles of new roads and salvage will be excluded from "roadless" areas. Unfortunately, it seems political pressure has affected how the Forest Service will deal with the Routt blowdown too.

The Forest Service has received \$4.8 million from the emergency supplemental appropriations bills, but not enough has gone to on-the-ground management. I was dismayed to learn that the Forest Service proposes only to salvage 7% of the 20,000 acre blowdown. The Forest Service proposes to leave the vast majority of good timber to insects and decay. Even more alarming is that a vast tinderbox of dead and dying trees lies waiting for a careless match or lightning strike to ignite.

Salvage operations will help, but many areas that could have been harvested economically with on-the-ground techniques are set-aside for helicopters, or left untouched. Thankfully, Frank Cross, the Forest Service Blowdown Team Leader committed to a demonstration project to explore other logging methods should the Jetstream Sale fail to attract much attention. I am hopeful that the Forest Service will look past what is politically popular and take more aggressive steps to deal with this natural disaster. I thank Gary and Cathy Jones for all their hard work on this issue. It is clear they are strong advocates for active management, forest health and diversity. I commend them for their efforts and look forward to working with them in the future.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FLUENCY
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3829) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help children and youth learn English, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3892, the English Language Fluency Act. I believe that it is time this Congress said the era of mandatory bilingual education is over.

There are too many ways for the anti-English lobby to defy the will of the people on this matter. Let me cite just two examples. When the voters of California said no to bilingual education, our own Department of Education was threatening an investigation. According to the Washington Post of August 3, 1998, San Francisco schools claim to be under a court order from the 1970's which mandates bilingual education.

If the English Language Fluency Act is passed, the Department of Education will no longer have the power to bully schools and school districts into adopting the failed approach of bilingual education. If the English Language Fluency Act is passed, school districts will be freed from voluntary Compliance Agreements which mandate bilingual education.

We have tried the bilingual approach for 30 years now, Mr. Chairman. The record of this program is an unbroken string of failure. All the legislation before us today does is give schools, school districts and parents a choice. Some may continue bilingual education programs if they feel it is in their best interests. If the taxpayers of a community support that approach, it is not Congress' business. Nor should it be the federal government's business to force communities to continue to pay for these gold-plated, failed bilingual educational programs.

H.R. 3892 is a parent empowerment bill and a community empowerment bill. H.R. 3892 frees schools to do what they think best to educate the children in their care. This is the same approach taken by my Declaration of Official Language Act (H.R. 622). I urge my colleagues to pass the English Language Fluency Act and return education to local authorities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's proceedings, I was inadvertently absent from the Chamber during two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on both Rollcall votes 423 and 424. I ask that this statement be included in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO CHAMPIONS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to some of my constituents for their hard work, dedication and excellence in an elite and competitive field—horse judging. Mr. Speaker, Robert Dehn, Kay Gibson, Meghan Hankhammer, Amber Martin and their coach, Ron Stephens earned the highest honor in a horse judging competition in Fort Worth, Texas. These talented youths won the World Championship in the American Junior Paint Horse Association horse judging competition in July. They set a fine example of the tremendous accomplishments our youth can achieve with the right attitude and a competitive spirit. I congratulate them for their award, their achievements with 4-H, and for representing Colorado so well.

LARRY WILLIAMS RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for and heartfelt thanks to Larry Williams, who is retiring from his post as Director of the Sierra Club's International Program. For the past seventeen years, Larry has taken a leadership role in promoting the protection of the environment on the international level and people around the world are the beneficiaries of his vision, his dedication and his unrelenting advocacy. Larry is a true champion of the global environment and, therefore, a champion for this world's children and for our future.

One of Larry's major successes, on which we worked closely, was the development and passage of legislation requiring the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to do environmental impact assessments and to make those assessments publicly available for MDB-financed projects. With the implementation of this legislation, now known as the "Pelosi Amendment," new environmental policies and standards have been set internationally.

Ten years ago, MDB-financed projects like highways, dams, irrigation works and power plants, would largely be built without regard for their irreversible impacts on the environment and without the informed participation of affected communities. The prevailing approach to large-scale development projects was to build them first and worry about the consequences later. Local citizens were often the last to know that important wetlands would be drained, rivers diverted, forests cut down, or entire communities displaced by projects supported by US tax dollars. With Larry Williams' leadership, the Pelosi Amendment to the International Development and Finance Act of 1989 changed that. Now, citizens in communities from the Amazon River Basin to the Himalayas and all other points around the world have access to information about proposed MDB projects that will have major impacts on their lives.